

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4640

KATHMANDU FOR DEP SEC

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PFOR PINT IN BG PK

SUBJECT: FORMINS SECRETARYS ACCOUNT OF INDO- BANGLADESH DECLARA-
TION

SUMMARY: FOREIGN SECRETARY PRESENTED LONG ACCOUNT
OF THE BACKGROUND TO THE RECENT JOINT DECLARATION WITH
BANGLADESH AND HOPED FOR SUPPORT OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.
I SAID IF THERE SPECIFICICS GOI WISHED TO RAISE IN THIS
RESPECT IT COULD DO SO TOMORROW WHEN DEPUTY SECRETARY
RUSH ARRIVES. END SUMMARY.

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH ASKED TO SEE ME
AT 1800 WEDNESDAY APRIL 19. LEARNING THAT
I WAS IN MADRAS HE ASKED TO SEE ME AT THAT HOUR TODAY.
HE GREETED ME WITH THE REMARK THAT I HAD BEEN TRAVELLING.
I REPLIED THAT SO, ONE READ, HAD HE. THIS
LED TO A HALF HOUR ACCOUNT OF THE DEVELOPMENTS
IN SIKKIM. (ACCOUNT TO FOLLOW). HIS PURPOSE IN CALLING ME
IN WAS, HOWEVER, TO DISCUSS THE RECENT JOINT DECLARATION OF INDIA
AND BANGLADESH. I OUGHT PERHAPS TO SAY DESCRIBE, FOR THIS
MOSTLY IS WHAT HE DID. HENCE I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE TO THOSE
WHO KNOW MOST OF WHAT FOLLOWS.

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2. FIRST HE RECOUNTED THE SIMLA BACKGROUND. " WE HAD BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES BY BHUTTO THAT BANGLADESH WOULD BE RECOGNIZED" IN FAIRLY SHORT ORDER, AND THAT A " NORMALIZATION OF INDO- PAKISTAN RELATIONS WOULD FOLLOW. SUCH MATTERS AS " OVER FLIGHTS" AND THE LIKE. NEITHER OF THESE COMMITMENTS HAS BEEN KEPT. IT WAS ALSO AGREED AT SIMLA THAT THE PARTIES WOULD NOT INDULGE IN ANY " HOSTILE PROPAGANDA AGAINST ONE ANOTHER." INDIA HAS DONE HER BEST IN THIS REGARD. IT CANNOT CONTROL THE PRESS, WHICH REPORTS OF PAKISTAN DIFFICULTIES AND DEVELOPMENTS, BUT WITH RESPECT TO RADIO " WHERE WE HAVE A LITTLE MORE SAY - ALTHOUGH ALL INDIA RADIO IS AUTONOMOUS - WE HAVEN' T SAID A LINE." BY CONTRAST THE PAK RADIO AND PRESS HAS CARRIED ON A SUSTAINED CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIA, NOT JUST WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS LEFT OVER FROM THE WAR, BUT TO WHOLLY INTERNAL MATTERS SUCH AS SEEKING TO EXACERBATE MATTERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND INCITING PUNJABI SIKHS TO DISCONTENT.

3. BANGLADESH HAD VOWED THERE WOULD BE NO TALKS WITH PAKISTAN SAVE ON THE BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, WHICH TO THEM AT THAT TIME MEANT RECOGNITION BY PAKISTAN. BUT " WE DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE HUMAN PROBLEM, AND TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT." THIS WAS A TRULY " MAGANIMOUS" DESIRE ON THE PART OF BANGLADESH.

4. THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT OF INDO PAKISTAN RELATIONS WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE FIRST EXCHANGE AT SIMLA BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND BHUTTO. MR. GANDHI HAD SAID " LET US FIRST OF ALL TALK CLEARLY ON ONE POINT: ARE OUR INTERESTS COMPLEMENTARY OR CONTRADICTORY. IF THEY ARE CONTRADICTORY WE CAN PATCH UP AN AGREEMENT THAT WILL WORK FOR A WHILE BUT IN TIME THERE WILL ONCE AGAIN BE WAR. IF OUR INTERESTS ARE COMPLEMENTARY THERE IS NO REASON WE CAN' T LINK TOGETHER WITH TIES AND ACTIVITIES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE." TO WHICH BHUTTO REPLIED " I MYSELF WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE THEORY OF CONFRONTATION. I NOW FIND I WAS WRONG." THIS MEANT THERE COULD BE DURABLE PEACE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. IT SET THE TWO FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INDIAN POLICY: RECOGNITION AND DURABLE PEACE.

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